

Theme: God does not measure value or honor the way we do – it is given to those who make much of Him regardless of the cost.

Background: Jesus doesn't resort to flattery or gossip when he speaks of the scribes.

Introduction: How uncomfortable are you when someone who is telling you how wonderful they are?

I. Making Much of Self

A. The inexorable *pull* of “Self”

1. Pride exhibited
 - “Long robes”
2. Prestige
 - Greetings in the marketplaces (11:43)
3. Power
 - Devouring widow's houses
4. Pretence of true piety
 - They make *long* prayers

NOTE: Unfortunately, we see these same sins today.

B. The inevitable *problem* of exalting Self

1. You can't champion your own greatness – and exalt God!
 - John 3:30; James 4:10
2. A greater condemnation!
 - Greater authority means stricter judgment
 - Some sins are worse than others
 - WLC #151 James 3:1ff

NOTE: In making much of themselves – they made little of God!

II. Making Much of God - The Setting: Women's Court and the 13 “Trumpets” for offerings

A. A sacrificial gift

1. The rich and their gifts
 - Large!
 - Not costly! No *weight* for them.
2. The poor widows gift
 - Two small coins (pennies)
 - All she has to live on!
 - Is she richer or poorer for the gift?

NOTE: She made much of God, his honor, his worship, his temple.

3. No hope of earthly honor
4. He doesn't change her circumstances
5. A lesson for the disciples

B. A greater sacrifice

1. Jesus' own sacrificial gift – His life
2. One “insignificant” death?
3. Greatest sacrifice ever made!
 - a. Trusting himself wholly to the Father
 - b. Not honored in this life
 - c. Exalted above the heavens!
 - d. Bringing to himself those who humble themselves!

III. Living Humbly Before God

- A. The pull of power, prestige, pride, pretense – isn't any less on us than it was on the scribes. We must be on our guard.
- B. How much does money – and its use – say about a person's heart toward God and the things of God? Apparently, quite a lot.

REMEMBER:

1. Giving that pleases God is a matter of the heart.
2. Giving that pleases God will cost us!
3. Ultimately, it is not my money that he wants – it's me.